

Time constant: for $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$ with complex eigenvalues λ_i :

$$\tau_i = \left\{ \frac{1}{|\operatorname{Re}(\lambda_i)|}, \frac{2\pi}{|\operatorname{Im}(\lambda_i)|} \right\}$$

This ODE is *stiff* if

$$\gamma = \frac{\tau_{\max}}{\tau_{\min}} > 10^3$$

Rule of thumb: simulate $T = 5\tau_{\max}$ if system is stable; use step size $h = \min \left\{ \frac{\tau_{\min}}{10}, \frac{T}{200} \right\}$ or number of steps $k = \max \{ 50\gamma, 200 \}$; plot with step size $H = \frac{T}{200} = \frac{\tau_{\max}}{40}$; for stiff systems use a variable-step solver with initial step $\frac{\tau_{\min}}{10}$. Use adaptive step size solvers for stiff problems.

6 Optimization

Formulation: minimize $f(\mathbf{x})$, subject to $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$ (equality constraints) and $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \geq \mathbf{0}$ (inequality constraints), where $f: \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{g}: \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{h}: \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^p$.

\mathbf{x}^* is a *global minimum* if

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq f(\mathbf{x})$$

\mathbf{x}^* is a *local minimum* if

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2 < \varepsilon \implies f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq f(\mathbf{x})$$

All minima of f are *stationary points*, where $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$; to find the global minimum, check all stationary points and boundaries.

$$\mathbf{H}_f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

If \mathbf{x}^* is a stationary point, it is a local minimum if $\mathbf{H}_f(\mathbf{x}^*) > 0$, maximum if $\mathbf{H}_f < 0$, saddle if $\mathbf{H}_f = 0$.

A *feasible point* is any \mathbf{x} satisfying all constraints; the *feasible set* contains all feasible points. A *critical point* is a local maximum, minimum or saddle point in the feasible set.

Lagrange Multipliers: for equality constraints $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \Lambda(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$$

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions: \mathbf{x}^* is a critical point when there exists $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ such that:

1. Stationarity: $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) - \sum_i \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) - \sum_j \mu_j \nabla h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$
2. Primal feasibility: $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq \mathbf{0}$
3. Complementary slackness: $\forall_j, \mu_j h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$
4. Dual feasibility: $\forall_j, \mu_j \geq 0$

f is *convex* if $\mathbf{H}_f > 0$ for all \mathbf{x} , or

$$\forall \mathbf{x}_1 \neq \mathbf{x}_2, \forall \alpha \in (0, 1), f((1-\alpha)\mathbf{x}_1 + \alpha\mathbf{x}_2) \leq (1-\alpha)f(\mathbf{x}_1) + \alpha f(\mathbf{x}_2)$$

A set S is *convex* if:

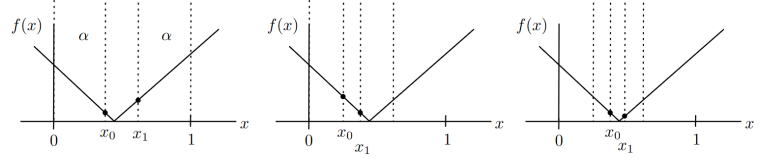
$$\forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S, \alpha \in [0, 1], \alpha\mathbf{x} + (1-\alpha)\mathbf{y} \in S$$

If the objective f and feasible set are both convex, the problem is convex and has a unique minimum.

7 Numerical Optimization Algorithms

f is *unimodal* over $[a, b]$ if there exists $x^* \in [a, b]$ s.t. f is decreasing over $[a, x^*]$ and increasing over $[x^*, b]$.

Golden Section Search: 1D, unconstrained; order 1; requires unimodularity. Rescale to $[0, 1]$, choose $x_0 = \alpha, x_1 = 1 - \alpha$ for $0 < \alpha < 1/2$; evaluate $f(x_0), f(x_1)$, discard larger side, rescale and repeat. Using $1 - \alpha = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} - 1)$ allows using x_0 as the next x_1 .



Gradient Descent: unconstrained; requires twice differentiable.

Let $g(\alpha) = f(\mathbf{x}_k - \alpha \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)^T)$, find α^* minimizing g , update $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \alpha^* \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)^T$. Optimizing g is expensive so fixed step size can be used. Suffers from poor conditioning of f .

Newton's Method: unconstrained; requires twice differentiable. Iterate as $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{H}_f^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_k) \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)^T$; or in 1D,

$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \frac{f'(\mathbf{x}_k)}{f''(\mathbf{x}_k)}$. Gauss-Newton approximates \mathbf{H}_f using first derivatives (mix of gradient descent and Newton). Levenberg-Marquardt applies adaptive regularization for nearly-singular Hessians.

Sequential Quadratic Programming (SQP): constrained. Iteratively solves a series of simpler, less constrained approximations of the problem. f is replaced by a quadratic approximation and the constraints linearized. Similar to Newton's method; only converges if initial guess is good.

Barrier Methods: constrained. Constraints are turned into penalties on the objective. Define new objective as $f'(x) = f(x) + \rho \frac{1}{h(x)}$ where weight ρ is increased to satisfy constraints, decreased for more accuracy.

8 Linear Algebra

$\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$ is positive definite if \mathbf{A} is full rank, semi-definite otherwise. Orthogonal \mathbf{Q} rotates, preserves angles, and $\mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{1}$.

$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$ can be solved by factoring $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{LU}$ and solving $\mathbf{Ly} = \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{Ux} = \mathbf{y}$.

A general *vector norm* satisfies: $\|\mathbf{x}\| = 0 \iff \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$; $\|c\mathbf{x}\| = |c|\|\mathbf{x}\|$; $\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\| \leq \|\mathbf{x}\| + \|\mathbf{y}\|$. The p -norm for $p \geq 1$ is convex:

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_p = (|x_1|^p + |x_2|^p + \cdots + |x_n|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

2-norm is Euclidean; ∞ -norm is $\|\mathbf{x}\|_\infty = \max(|x_1|, |x_2|, \dots, |x_n|)$. The *matrix norm* induced by a vector norm is

$$\|\mathbf{A}\| = \max \{ \|\mathbf{Ax}\| \mid \|\mathbf{x}\| = 1 \} = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{\|\mathbf{Ax}\|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|}$$

1-norm: maximum column sum

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_1 = \max_{i=1 \leq j \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^m |a_{ij}|$$

2-norm: largest eigenvalue of \mathbf{A} (aka *spectral radius*)

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_2 = \max \left\{ \sqrt{\lambda} \mid \exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{Ax} = \lambda \mathbf{x} \right\}$$

Frobenius norm: always $\|\mathbf{A}\|_2 \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|_F$

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|^2} = \sqrt{\operatorname{tr} \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}}$$

∞ -norm: maximum row sum

$$\|\mathbf{A}\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \sum_{j=1}^n |a_{ij}|$$

The *condition number* of \mathbf{A} with respect to a norm is

$$\text{cond } \mathbf{A} = \|\mathbf{A}\| \|\mathbf{A}^{-1}\|$$

or ∞ if \mathbf{A} is non-invertible. For solving $\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$, this describes how error in \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{b} propagates to \mathbf{x} .